United Nations E/AC.51/2011/L.4/Add.3

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
15 June 2011

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fifty-first session
6 June-1 July 2011
Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-first session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Igor **Krasnov** (Belarus)

Addendum

Coordination questions: report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

(*item 4 (a)*)

Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2010/11

1. At its 4th meeting, on 7 June 2011, the Committee considered the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2010/11 (E/2011/104).

2. The Secretary of CEB introduced the report and responded verbally and in written form to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. Delegations thanked the Secretary of CEB for his presentation, welcomed the comprehensive annual overview report of CEB for 2010/11 and commended its work and the work of its three pillars (the High-level Committee on Programmes, the High-level Committee on Management and the United Nations Development Group) in strengthening coordination of various areas within the United Nations system.

4. Delegations commended the work of CEB in ensuring greater coherence and coordination in areas such as climate change and sustainable development, preparations for major conferences such as the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the empowerment of women, and disaster risk reduction.

11-37537 (E) 170611

Please recycle

In addition, measures adopted by the Board to follow up on intergovernmental decisions related to sustainable energy for all was noted.

5. Further, delegations expressed their appreciation and support for increased dialogue between CEB and executive heads with intergovernmental organs, particularly the Economic and Social Council. CEB was urged to continue its efforts in that regard, as well as efforts to enhance the transparency of its decisions and work for Member States, including aligning its decisions with those of intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations.

6. With regard to operational issues, some delegations welcomed the efforts of CEB in enhancing the country-level coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations development system. However, operational activities for development of the United Nations system in helping countries to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, must continue to be in accordance with the national priorities, development strategies and needs of Member States. In that regard, it was important to take into account the particular circumstances and issues presented in national priorities and development strategies in aligning the United Nations Development Assistance Framework cycle and common country assessments with national processes, as opposed to going towards a "one size fits all" approach.

7. Several delegations expressed the view that the concept of an "integrated implementation framework" should be discussed at the Economic and Social Council as the primary body concerned with the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Some delegations expressed concern that they were not informed of the concept prior to the Committee's meeting and sought clarification on its formulation, as well as when it would be presented to Member States for adoption. Delegations expressed the need for the concept to facilitate synergies and align with the Millennium Development Goals.

8. Some delegations welcomed efforts by the Board in implementing major outcomes of intergovernmental decisions, including piloting the "Delivering as one" concept. Another group of delegations called attention to the fact that there is no one single model for United Nations assistance provided by the specialized agencies, funds and programmes on the ground. Further, delegations reiterated their call to the Secretary-General to ensure that the work of CEB is consistent with key General Assembly decisions on operational issues with which the United Nations Development Group is concerned.

9. On support to developing countries, several delegations took note of the statement of support by CEB to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. A few delegations expressed their interest in how the United Nations system intends to promote the development of productive capacities in light of the adoption of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (A/CONF.219/3).

10. On staff safety and security, the view was expressed that information provided in the report was cursory and that such work should be pursued in line with the overall efforts within intergovernmental bodies on reforming the management of safety and security. More information was sought on the efforts of CEB to treat this

issue with paramount importance and the measures taken within the United Nations system to protect staff.

11. Two decisions of the Committee from its fiftieth session relating to the work of CEB were recalled. The Board was asked to provide more information with regard to the degree to which it has enhanced the participation of developing countries in the procurement process of the United Nations system and efforts to strengthen cooperation between CEB and other inter-organizational bodies such as the International Civil Service Commission and the Joint Inspection Unit, including information on the frequent participation of these two bodies in the work of CEB.

12. Some delegations raised points related to the "Principals Group" established under the aegis of the Secretary-General. The view was expressed that the Group should focus on processes of creating synergies between the various policy strands in providing concise and coherent advice and messaging related to sustainable development. Further, several points related to the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) were raised. Specifically, delegations requested that the Secretariat provide a written response to better clarify the information conveyed in paragraph 61 of the annual overview report as well as on the status of implementation and achievability of IPSAS among involved entities and taking into account relevant General Assembly resolutions and guidelines.

13. Delegations also sought further clarification as to why the topics of sustainable energy and biodiversity were presented together in the annual overview report.

Conclusions and recommendations

14. **The Committee recommended once again that the General Assembly bring to the attention of the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, the need for the Board to continue to act in accordance with its mandate of enhancing system-wide coordination and in conformity with the intergovernmental mandates of its member organizations.**

15. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to report to the Assembly on the occurrence of direct and substantive dialogue between CEB and Member States, in accordance with paragraph 4 of its resolution 64/289, in order to enhance the Board's transparency and accountability to Member States.**

16. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the efforts of the Secretary-General concerning change management and request that he ensure that the focus of these efforts is the effective and efficient implementation of mandates approved by intergovernmental organs.**

17. **The Committee noted with interest the role of CEB in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012, and in this regard recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to report on the challenges and opportunities for the United Nations system resulting from that global event.**

18. **The Committee reiterated its recommendations contained in its reports on its forty-seventh session (A/62/16, para. 114), forty-eighth session (A/63/16, paras. 407 and 408), forty-ninth session (A/64/16, para. 124) and fiftieth session**

(A/65/16, para. 369), in which it stated that any criteria and methodology for the comprehensive evaluation of the eight "Delivering as one" pilot projects should first be considered and approved by the General Assembly and that United Nations support to "Delivering as one" pilot projects should not prejudice the outcome of the intergovernmental deliberations of the Assembly on system-wide coherence.

19. **The Committee also reiterated its recommendation that the General Assembly bring to the attention of the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, the need to continue to better address the issue of increasing the participation of developing countries and economies in transition in the procurement processes of the United Nations.**

20. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to ensure that projects funded by the High-level Committee on Management Plan of Action are implemented in accordance with relevant provisions of the General Assembly resolutions concerning administrative and budgetary matters, as well as the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations (ST/SGB/2003/7).**

21. **The Committee recommended continuous cooperation between CEB, the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and the Joint Inspection Unit and encouraged CEB to strengthen that cooperation through the more frequent participation of the Joint Inspection Unit and the ICSC in the meetings of the High-level Committee on Management, the High-level Committee on Programmes and the United Nations Development Group.**